

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for affixing a tendon or ligament to a bone, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate tensile member adapted to extend within the interior of said tendon or ligament;

a helical anchor coupled with said elongate tensile member and ~~having~~
configured to be placed within the tendon or ligament;

a retaining member coupled to said elongate tensile member and disposed at least partially within said helical anchor to define an interior space for receiving fibrous tissue of the tendon or ligament; and

a bone anchor coupled with said elongate tensile member ~~and positioned outside of said interior space~~ for allowing attachment of said tendon or ligament to said bone.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, further comprising a slidable locking member coupled with said elongate tensile member and adapted to hold said retaining member at a desired location along said elongate tensile member.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for affixing a tendon or ligament to a bone, the apparatus of ~~claim 5~~, comprising:

an elongate tensile member adapted to extend within the interior of said tendon or ligament;

a helical anchor coupled with said elongate tensile member and having an interior space for receiving fibrous tissue of the tendon or ligament;

a bone anchor coupled with said elongate tensile member and positioned outside of said interior space for allowing attachment of said tendon or ligament to said bone;

a retaining member adapted to be retained at a selected position along said elongate tensile member to hold said bone anchor, said elongate tensile member and said helical anchor together with said tendon or ligament against said bone, said retaining member sized and configured to be received at least partially within said helical anchor; and

a slidable locking member coupled with said elongate tensile member and adapted to hold said retaining member at a desired location along said elongate tensile member, wherein said slidable locking member is separable from said retaining member.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said slidable locking member is formed integrally with said retaining member.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for affixing a tendon or ligament to a bone, the apparatus of ~~claim 5~~, comprising:

an elongate tensile member adapted to extend within the interior of said tendon or ligament;

a helical anchor coupled with said elongate tensile member and having an interior space for receiving fibrous tissue of the tendon or ligament;

a bone anchor coupled with said elongate tensile member and positioned outside of said interior space for allowing attachment of said tendon or ligament to said bone;

a retaining member adapted to be retained at a selected position along said elongate tensile member to hold said bone anchor, said elongate tensile member and said helical anchor together with said tendon or ligament against said bone, said retaining member sized and configured to be received at least partially within said helical anchor; and

a slidable locking member coupled with said elongate tensile member and adapted to hold said retaining member at a desired location along said elongate tensile member, wherein said slidable locking member is a crimp member.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said helical anchor is compressible.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method of repairing a tendon or ligament having fibers extending in a lengthwise direction, ~~The method of claim 10, further comprising:~~

inserting an elongate tensile member within the tendon or ligament;

inserting an anchor structure within a tendon or ligament;

attaching a bone anchor to a bone;

coupling the elongate tensile member to the anchor structure;

coupling the elongate tensile member to the bone anchor; and

applying tension to the elongate tensile member to approximate the tendon or ligament and the bone; and

securing a stop member to the elongate tensile member and against the soft tissue anchor structure.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of repairing a tendon or ligament having fibers extending in a lengthwise direction, comprising ~~The method of claim 10, wherein the step of inserting the soft tissue anchor comprises:~~

inserting an elongate tensile member within the tendon or ligament;

inserting a helical anchor within a tendon or ligament;

attaching a bone anchor to a bone;

gripping fibers of the tendon or ligament between **[[a]]** the helical anchor and a retaining member;

coupling the elongate tensile member to the helical anchor;

coupling the elongate tensile member to the bone anchor; and

applying tension to the elongate tensile member to approximate the tendon or ligament and the bone.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).